



Problem Solving

Assessing Questions

Assessing Questions for teacher observation of a student's ability to use problem solving.

Completeness of the student's use of the strategy of problem solving

- Did the student clearly identify a goal to be accomplished?
- Did the student clearly identify the constraints or limiting conditions?
- Did the student identify ways to overcome the constraints or limiting conditions?
- Did the student focus on a specific way to overcome the constraints or limiting conditions?
- If the initial selection did not work, did the student try other ways to overcome the constraints?

Accuracy and effectiveness of the student's thinking in the problem solving task

- Was the goal identified by the student important to the content of the unit?
- Were the constraints or limiting conditions identified by the student accurate and comprehensive?
- Were the ways of overcoming the constraints or limiting conditions selected by the student viable and important to the situation?
- Was the alternative selected by the student from those identified the most appropriate within the set?
- Did the student adequately try out the selected alternative before trying another?

Adapted from McREL Institute